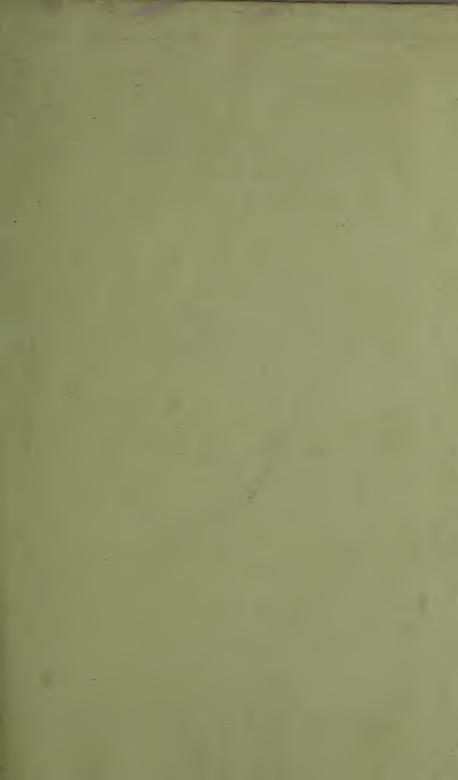


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THE

Missionary Magazine

AND

CHRONICLE.

POLYNESIA.

FRENCH OPPRESSION IN THE LOYALTY ISLANDS.

The first intelligence which reached us on this painful subject applied exclusively to the Island of Lifu; but during the last month we have received communications from the Rev. John Jones, of Maré, from which it appears that the Governor of New Caledonia had visited that island in the first instance, and that he afterwards proceeded to Lifu, where he not only imposed similar restrictions, but enforced them by acts of violence.

The Gospel was introduced to the Island of Maré in the year 1844, by well-qualified native teachers from Samoa and Rarotonga; and at that time the state of the native population was degraded and miserable in the extreme. "On approaching its shores," say the missionary brethren who visited the island two years afterwards, "we saw hundreds of the wild, naked, savage, heathen population running along the beach, or dancing through the cocoa-nut groves, in the utmost state of frenzy; and so loud was the yelling as to be distinctly heard on board the ship as we sailed some distance from the shore."

But in this island, to a greater extent than in Lifu, the natives have been brought under the elevating and sanctifying power of the Gospel. Multitudes are rejoicing in the blessings of salvation, and exhibiting its controlling power in their lives and character. Messrs. Jones and Creagh, the two English missionaries settled on the island, have from time to time given the most cheering accounts of the success with which God has graciously crowned their labours, in the establishment of schools, the increase of the churches, and the conversion of the heathen. In this peaceful and improving island the French Governor of New Caledonia made his appearance for the first time in June last, and the following letter of our missionary describes the objects and results of his visit:—

"Nengoné (Maré), August 26th, 1864.

"MY DEAR DOCTOR,—Since writing to you in June last, we have met with a very serious check to our work, which had of late been progressing most rapidly and encouragingly.

"The Governor of New Caledonia paid us a visit on the 20th of June last. We had heard some time previously that we might expect such a visit, and so were somewhat prepared to hear the natives shouting, one fine morning, that two steamers were running into our bay. I found that the Governor was proceeding to visit the islands of the Loyalty Group, and, in course, he commenced with this island.

"He blamed me for living in a French colony without a permit of residence. I replied that I did not know officially that this was a French colony—had merely heard by report that such was the case. He said that, when New Caledonia was taken possession of by the French Government, the Loyalty Group was mentioned in the programme, and published in the 'Sydney Herald.' (I cannot vouch for the truth of this.) Has any nation the power, by the law of nations, to take possession of a place, or group of islands, merely by name, and by publishing this act in a newspaper? For the Loyalty Group is quite a distinct group from that of New Caledonia, as much so as the Society, or Hervey, or Samoan groups are distinct from each other. The French flag had never been hoisted on the Loyalty Group till it was hoisted on Lifu in the month of May in the present year; and we think that hoisting it on New Caledonia ten years ago did not constitute the Loyalty Group a French colony, and therefore we are not liable for living here without a permit of residence.

"The Governor proceeded to inform me that all purchases of land from the natives were null, and that, if I wished to retain possession of my premises, I must repurchase them from the Government. Having learnt that I could not teach French, he told me that I could not keep schools any more, as it was a law of the colony that any person opening a school must be able to teach the French language. Hence I have been compelled to close the Institution for Training Native Evangelists, as well as our boarding-school, and all the public schools. I am happy to say, however, that these (the public schools) are still carried on by the natives themselves. I have no connection whatever with them now.

"He permitted me to continue my duties as a Protestant pastor of the Protestant people only, but strictly prohibited me from preaching to any of the heathen.

"He interdicted also the Rarotongan and Samoan evangelists in their work, and said they could only live in the colony as private individuals. We still hoped to have the assistance of our own natives as evangelists; but we have since received a letter from his Excellency, saying that the Maré catechists, as well as Samoan and Rarotongan, must altogether cease from imparting instruction, under the penalty of being severely punished. We might then ask, What are the people to do if even their own countrymen may not become their teachers and pastors?

"He has intimated also in the same letter, that even our privilege of acting as pastors to the people will soon be curtailed. Despatches have been for-

warded to France relative to the position the Protestant pastors are to occupy in this colony; and when an answer is obtained I suppose we shall know our fate.

"We trust that the Directors will be able, through our own Government, to obtain and secure to us the privilege of prosecuting our labours in the cause of Christ without hindrance. We expect, of course, to be subject to French law, and we shall feel it our duty also to exhort the people around us to submit peaceably to the same; but we do not understand having a special law made by the caprice of the Government for us missionaries, to which other colonists are not subject. We are now nothing better than prisoners—for what crime we are not privileged to know—but it is a fact that we cannot move about without first obtaining permission, and when we seek that, it is refused us. The brethren at Lifu cannot visit us, neither can we visit Lifu; but other colonists can go about where they please. We have important business as a Mission to transact, but we cannot meet together to transact it.

"The Governor proceeded from this to Life, and there, I am sorry to say, he at once attacked the people for some cause which as yet remains undiscovered. I need not enter into the particulars of this affair, as I have no doubt Mr. Macfarlane will write to you fully upon the subject. I may, however, add that when we visited the island in the 'Day Spring,' a few days afterwards, we found that the soldiers had pillaged and burnt up the villages, destroyed the cocoa-nut groves, and turned the chapel into barracks. The pulpit was the commander's bed-chamber, the Mission pew the pantry, and the benches were being cut up for firewood! We were not permitted to land, nor have any interview whatever with our brethren there. All religious worship was at that time forbidden throughout the island; but we have heard since that the natives are again permitted to worship among themselves. The missionaries are not allowed to preach or teach. The contributions of cocoa-nut fibre to the London Missionary Society have, to a great extent, been destroyed by the soldiers. We fear henceforth that the natives will not be allowed to offer any more contributions to the support of religion in any way. 'A voice of wailing is heard out of Zion, How are we spoiled!'

"We are at a loss to conceive what the French can see in these islands to covet: mere barren rocks, no harbours, no rivers, no wood; nothing, in fact, that will be of any use whatever to such a government. But the missionary sees something to covet: he sees immortal souls perishing without Christ, and to whom Christ has sent him to proclaim salvation through His name. To proclaim a Saviour to sinful man is the subject of attraction to the

missionary.

"I am, my dear Doctor,
"Yours faithfully,
(Signed) "J. Jones.

"REV. DR. TIDMAN."

From the above communication it will be seen that the object of M. Guillain was carried out, though without violence, in Maré, as in Lifu; and we have reason to believe that in the third island of this group, Uea, the same restrictions have been imposed, and that in fact the religious liberty, both of the missionaries and their people, is for the present at an end.

The Directors have, in concert with the representatives of our several Missionary Societies, made strong appeals to her Majesty's Government to exercise their most powerful influence with the Government of France for the redress of the grievous wrongs which have been perpetrated on the missionaries and their people of the Loyalty Islands; and they were happy to find that their application had been anticipated by the noble Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and that he was continuing to employ most earnest endeavours, with a strong assurance of ultimate success. A memorial has also been addressed directly to the Emperor of the French, signed by noblemen and gentlemen of high official position, which has been forwarded through the French Ambassador.

It should be added that some modifications at least of these oppressive proceedings were demanded by the French Government, and a despatch to that effect was addressed to M. Guillain so early as the month of October last. What may be its practical value cannot at present be confidently anticipated; but the following communication from the French Minister of Marine, which we give for the information of our readers, has been received by a gentleman deeply interested in this painful case; and we trust that the measures which have been since adopted may secure a larger amount of unrestricted freedom than the document itself appears to indicate:—

"His Majesty," writes the Minister, "directs me to apprise you that the English residing in the Loyalty Group may confide in the protection of France; that if, with a view to the opening of schools, and the acquisition of land, of which they may be in want, they have failed to seek the necessary sanction, conformably to the general regulations regarding our possessions in those seas, they have only to demand such sanction, and it will be immediately accorded; finally, they will be in no respect shackled in the exercise of their ministry, so long as nothing occurs to interfere with the exercise of our authority.

"Since the 26th October last, instructions to this effect have been communicated to the Governor of New Caledonia."

ERAMANGA.

It is gratifying to turn from the despotic and oppressive measures exercised towards our missionaries and their people in the Loyalty Islands, to glance at the hopeful prospects which are supplied from Eramanga. In the former group of islands we have seen the twilight leading on the morning, and, as we hoped, a precursor of mid-day; but suddenly the sky is overcast, and storm and tempest seem to be at hand. But in Eramanga, where we have so long mourned over the total darkness, light is arising, and we trust that God is about to avenge the death of His saints by bestowing the blessings of grace and salvation upon the degraded and savage people.

29

The Rev. Samuel Ella, describing the present state and prospects of the island, writes as follows:—

"We were five days beating up in the Mission vessel 'Day-spring' from Fate to Eramanga. We made Dillon's Bay by nine A.M. on Saturday the 16th July. The wind falling, we went ashore in the boat, and were nearly two hours pulling in. As we moved in close along the shore, natives came down to the rocks and shouted to us; some waved cocoa-nut leaves as a signal of good-will and invitation to land. We did not know then that these were Christians, though we observed they were more decently clad than the heathen are. We approached the fatal bay with melancholy feelings: as we entered we saw very distinctly the scene which has so often been described. We found the Aneiteum teacher, and Joe and Kauiaui, and a large number of natives waiting to welcome us. They took us to their chapel, a very unpretending little place, and to the teacher's house. Joe at once informed us of the state of things on this island, and gladdened our hearts by the intelligence that about 300 people around the bay were attending the means of grace and were really anxious for instruction. They had within a few months erected four chapels. Several of the natives, we trust, have heartily embraced the truth, and are desiring to live in accordance with the will of God. We met about twenty of these. We paid a visit to the grave of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, on the right bank of the river. It was in a very dilapidated condition, but a new fence was being placed around it. Mr. Gordon, who was with us, was greatly moved at this scene. We all viewed this sacred resting-place of the remains of these martyrs for the Redeemer's cause, with feelings of hope, mingled with sorrow.

"In reference to the hopes which we may now entertain for Eramanga, we might have appropriated the words of Montgomery as we looked on the grave of these servants of God:—

'This place is holy ground:
World, with thy cares, away.
Silence and darkness reign around;
But, lo! the break of day.
What bright and sudden dawn appears
To shine upon this scene of tears!

"The next day, Sabbath, we left the vessel at nine o'clock, and found a large company of natives assembled on the beach to greet us. We proceeded to the chapel, for Divine service. I counted 120 in the building, and there remained about thirty outside, who could not obtain room within. Most of the assembly were tolerably well clad. Mr. Gordon read a chapter from his brother's MS. translation of Luke, and afterwards a short address. Mr. Inglis followed with a few words, interpreted by the teacher. We also had English services on board: that of the morning was attended by Mrs. Henry and her family, from Mr. H.'s sandalwood establishment. Mrs. Henry showed us much kindness during our brief stay at Eramanga.

"The next morning we again visited the shore, and projected a journey to the place where Mr. and Mrs. Gordon resided at the time of their murder. Captain Fraser took his photographic apparatus to obtain views. The road was a difficult and steep ascent of nearly two miles. The first spot

pointed out to us was the ground on which Mr. Gordon was erecting his house at the time of his murder. Some of the stakes of the fence were still standing. This is a healthy locality, I think, and commands a very pretty view. We next ascended half a mile higher, and Joe pointed out to us the different objects marking the sad event. The bush where the natives from Bunkhil lay in wait; the tree from which the look-out was kept, and from behind which the man sprang who struck the first blow (after striking the blow he fled down the hill)—and we then came to the spot where our poor brother fell. It was marked by green leaves spread there by some who had just preceded us. This tribute to his memory is paid from time to time, for what purpose I did not ascertain. The path up which Mr. G. ran was a very rugged and entangled one, and we could plainly see how he stumbled there. We continued our walk to the place where the house stood, and where Mrs. G. was killed. A tree has been planted by the Christian natives on the spot where Mrs. G. fell. These are spots of melancholy interest. Our prayer is, that the day may soon come when those who planned and those who perpetrated this cruel deed may together mourn in sincere repentance their wickedness and folly. On returning to the shore, I was surprised to find the murderer, Nāhŏbili, and his party. He seemed to understand very little the enormity of his crime, or the feelings with which we must view it; for he came on purpose to visit the ship. I refused to shake hands with him, and through Mana told him what we thought of this deed; that, whilst Kauiaui's offence could be overlooked, as having been committed in ignorance of the object of Mr. Williams's visit, and in revenge for injuries done by our countrymen, there was no such excuse for Nāhöbili, I urged him to consider rightly what he had done, and repent of his sin, and seek for pardon through Jesus Christ. Before returning to the ship we held a meeting with the natives who had come together to welcome us. Mr. Gordon and I addressed them. These poor creatures had brought a present of yams and fowls, and a pig for the ship. Mr. Inglis thanked them for this evidence of their regard. As we left the shore to return to the vessel, the women who had followed us to the boat set up a loud lamentation. We sailed from Dillon's Bay in the evening, with a very light wind."

MADAGASCAR.

Nor only at the Capital and in the surrounding country, but in districts more remote, the interests of the Saviour's kingdom are visibly extending and gathering strength. In the city of Antananarivo two additional congregations have lately been formed and native chapels erected, making the present number seren. The congregations are generally equal to the capacity of the buildings, and the number of church-members bears a good proportion to the number of attendants. In confirmation of this we give the following table of statistics, supplied by the Rev. W. E. Cousins:—

	Congrega- tions.	Church Members.
Ambohipotsy Rev. R. Toy	800	200
Ankadibevava Rev. J. Kessler	400	120
Andohalo Rev. R. G. Hartley .	700	100
Ampamarinana Rev. B. Briggs	400	60
Antsampanimahazo · { Rev. W. Ellis and Rev. Geo. Cousins	} 700	250
Analakely Rev. Joseph Pearse .	700	250
Amparibe Rev. W. E. Cousins .	1000	430
Total	4700	1410

There are Schools in connection with each of the above congregations, with an average attendance of 60 pupils. In addition to these congregational schools is the Central Training School, which has generally about 140 in attendance.

"I am unable," adds Mr. Cousins, "to speak with certainty about the number of native pastors associated with the several missionaries. I have two who are called pastors, and three or four who occasionally preach, and I think this is a fair sample of the rest. The number of deacons in my church is ten, but this is rather over the average."

The number given above of actual attendants on the several churches applies to the Sabbath morning; but in the afternoon there is to some extent a change of persons, making at least 6000 attendants during the Sabbath; and to these must be added not less, probably, than 1000 more detained from various causes from public worship, making about 7000 professed Christians residing in the capital. In many villages within three or four miles of Antananarivo there are congregations and church-members, of which no returns have been made; but in a recent instance a new chapel was opened in the town of ILAFY, at which our friend the Rev. WILLIAM ELLIS, who officiated, states that 500 persons were present. These numbers will be sufficient to prove the strength of the Mission, and to encourage cheering expectations, under God's blessing, of prosperity and permanence.

The Madagascar Government continues to afford its protection to the native Christians; and, although there are doubtless many evil-minded persons who would be glad to see the days of persecution return, there is at present no ground for apprehension. On the contrary, Mr. Pakenham, the English consul, is now at the capital, negotiating a new treaty of commerce and friendship with our Government; and one of the most important provisions of that treaty is perfect freedom and government protection to the missionaries and the native Christians.

The following is an extract from the last letter of our friend Mr. Ellis, dated November 30th, which confirms the general statements now given:—

"Few, if any, changes of importance, so far as the people are concerned, have occurred since the departure of Mr. Cousins. The congregation at Ampamarinana is, I think, becoming more fixed, and is encouraging. Mrs. Briggs is doing much good among the females. The same may be said of Andohalo, where Mr. Hartley is labouring. The schools in connection with the congregations are reviving, and exerting a widening and increasingly beneficial influence on the people, though the value of education is still very low in the estimation of the multitude. Our central school is still kept open, and we anxiously wait the arrival of a competent master and mistress, when we hope it will maintain its intended position among the agencies of enlightenment for Madagascar, and prove a fountain of blessing to multitudes of the young. In the meantime Mr. Kessler is doing what he can to render it as useful as, under existing circumstances, it can be to the children of the capital. Notwithstanding the very recent opening of two new places of worship in the capital, viz., Ampamarinana and Andohalo-and a number have left other churches to join these newly-gathered congregations (more than thirty communicants left us at Ambatonakanga)—the former chapels are well attended, and the number united in fellowship but little less than it was before these places were opened,

"The Gospel is still spreading among the villages. The week before last I preached at the opening of a new chapel at Ilafy, an ancient, picturesque, and celebrated royal village, once the capital of the surrounding country, where not fewer than 500 persons were present. The chapel, which, including the minister's room and vestry under the same roof, is nearly 80 feet long and proportionably wide, was built by the people themselves, and is one of the neatest and best-finished places of worship I have yet seen in Madagascar.

"From the more remote stations we continue to receive good accounts. Our intercourse with them seems to be increasing, and few leave to return, without taking a supply of books. We are most at a loss for spelling or lesson books and native hymn books; but the supply of printing materials recently received will, we hope, render the issues from the press equal to the claims of the people."

INDIA.

BANGALORE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.

(From the "Madras Times" of November 1st, 1864.)

"The Annual Examination of the English Institution connected with the London Mission, Bangalore, was held on the 26th October, in the Mission Chapel, when many friends, European and Native, were interested spectators of the proceedings. The chair was taken at twelve o'clock, by Lieutenant-Colonel Dobbs. Prayer having been offered by the Rev. T. Hodson, of the Wesleyan Mission, the first classes were examined in Scripture, Ancient History, the History of India, and Geography; after which the Rev. B. Rice made the following statement:—

"'The number of schools connected with the Bangalore Mission is 16,

viz., English schools, 6; Canarese boys' schools, 2; Tamil boys' schools, 2; female schools, 8; containing a total of 737 scholars, viz., 543 boys and 194 girls. The English schools have for their special object the training of teachers and preachers for Mission work, and the bringing of Christian truth to bear upon the middle and upper classes of native society. The present number of scholars on the books is 407, viz., in the Pettah school, 109; in the Cantonment school, 172; and in the Alsoor school, 59: to which has been added, during the past year, a school at Maloor, on the railway line, twenty-four miles from Bangalore, where a very encouraging commencement has been made, and 67 of the sons of the principal inhabitants of the town have entered upon their studies under the superintendence of one of our native evangelists, with an earnestness which augurs well for their future progress. The education in these schools is not gratuitous, except in the case of some of the poorer scholars. The amount of fees collected during the year has been 344 rupees. The majority of the pupils are upwards of twelve years of age: many of them are young men. They are from various classes of the community, in the following proportions:-Brahmins, 87; Mudliars, and other Sudras, 224; Pariahs, 20; Mahommedans, 23; Roman Catholics, 5; Protestant Christians, 48. Total, 407.

"'A special feature of interest in the schools is, that 48 are Christians, many of them being the children of the members of our native congregation, who will, we hope, rise up to be a blessing to their countrymen in after years. Nearly all the teachers are Christians, who have themselves been trained in the schools. Five are theological students. Since the last examination, two, who were formerly students, and had completed their term of study, have been received as evangelists. Our native agency at Bangalore now includes—1 Ordained native Minister, 4 Evangelists, 3 Catechists, 12 School Teachers, 1 Colporteur, and 1 Bible-woman; most of whom are the fruit of the labours of past years at this station, and are an evidence that our efforts have not been in vain. Without the help of the native assistants, it would be quite impossible to carry on the various operations of the Mission. And it is a mark of progress that we are able to avail ourselves to so large an extent of an agency raised up in the country.

"'On the whole, we have cause for gratitude that so much has been accomplished, while at the same time we long to see many of those under our charge openly avowing, what we know to be their secret conviction, that Christianity is true and divine. May the Lord soon enable them to cast off the fetters with which they are bound, and to esteem the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of this world, having respect to the recompense of reward.

"The senior class was then called up and examined at some length, or the first five chapters of the Epistle to the Romans, and on the History of Europe at the time of the Reformation; after which the Chairman rose and delivered to the scholars an appropriate and earnest address, to the following effect:—

"'I have been gratified with the evidence you have afforded this morning, of diligence and success in the prosecution of your studies in History and other branches of general knowledge, but above all, in the study of the Holy

Scriptures. It is generally thought that the late Commissioner of Mysore, Sir Mark Cubbon, was opposed to the study of the Bible by the natives of this country, but this is a mistake. He more than once said to me, "I would put a Bible into the hands of every man in India, and tell him this book has made us what we are." Now this precious blessing you possess. The Bible is in your hards. But remember that it is not sufficient to have that Bible: it must be thoroughly studied. There is no getting on in any branch of learning without labour. So if you would know what the Bible teaches, and what Christianity really is, you must bring to this subject the whole force of your understanding. Recollect, however, that no one can obtain a saving knowledge of the Bible by the intellect alone. Man by his fall has lost the power of rightly comprehending spiritual truth without Divine aid. God himself must remove the darkness of the heart just as Christ took away the film from the eyes of the blind man. Ask Him to do this and He will not turn a deaf ear to your prayer. Further, be humble. Know yourselves. Do not be insensible to the wickedness of your own hearts, and of your unworthiness to receive anything from the Lord. Plead that name, the name of Jesus, through whom alone all spiritual blessings flow to guilty man.

"'Finally, let me press upon you the necessity of being in earnest in seeking preparation for another world. I stand here as an individual on a Christian platform, and not as a Government officer in a Government School, and therefore I feel at liberty to say here in my personal character that which I should abstain from saying there in my official capacity. Let me then, with all earnestness, entreat you to remember that there is a heaven, and that there is a hell, and that for the one or the other you are now preparing. Let me beseech you to ponder well the solemnities of eternity, and to resolve to welk in the path which your consciences tell you to be the right path. If you feel that you are in error, determine that, come what may, in God's strength you will abandon that error, and rather die than renounce what you know to be the truth.'

"To the above excellent and faithful address Mr. Rice added a few words of thanks to the chairman, and of admonition to the scholars to attend to the advice which had just been given them. Prizes were then distributed to those who had merited them, and the proceedings were closed with prayer by the Rev. S. Wright, of the Church of Scotland."

SOUTH AFRICA.

KURUMAN-MISSION SCHOOLS.

We have been favoured with the following interesting communication from the pen of Miss Moffat. The letter itself explains the occasion on which it was written. Some kind Christian friends at Birkenhead sought to render their assistance to our excellent and devoted friend Mrs. Moffat and her daughter, in their scholastic labours, by forwarding a liberal supply of articles of clothing, books, &c., as rewards and encouragements to the Bechuana children who are taught in their schools. This account, while it

evinces the diligence and perseverance of the kind teachers, shows no less the respect and gratitude of their pupils. There must indeed be many difficulties and discouragements in the work of teaching these youthful Africans, arising from their very limited advantages, and the unavoidable irregularity, especially in certain seasons, of their attendance at school. Nevertheless, there is much to repay the services of their kind and self-denying friends; and the scene exhibited on the annual feast-day would have been attractive and delightful to many a labourer at home. We hope Miss Moffat will repay the kindness of her generous benefactors, who thus render their assistance in her labour of love, by frequently giving them a letter as full of interest as that we now insert:—

"Kuruman, South Africa, August, 11th 1864.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PRESENTS.

"My DEAR MADAM,—I sincerely regret that your note of April last year, accompanying a box of most useful and acceptable articles, should have remained so long unanswered. Engagements, many and various, have so occupied our time since the box arrived, that we have been unable to write before this, although it is six months ago. My mother begs you to excuse her writing herself, but sends her warmest thanks for your kindness, and that of the Birkenhead ladies associated with you.

"We shall find good use for everything you have sent us, and have already distributed a few of the smaller things. As Bechuanas are not clever at washing and getting up muslins, and are very clever at making them dirty, we intend to keep the pretty shawls you have sent, to give to brides who may be deserving of the distinction. It is quite customary for the bride and bridesmaids to be arrayed in white, their dresses being generally trimmed with as much coloured braid as they can muster; therefore, the shawls will come in admirably for this purpose.

"The Garibaldi jackets are also very acceptable, and will, I expect, give great satisfaction to the children who are so deserving as to receive them. The hoods we are giving to old women whose heads feel the effects of age. They are very hardy people, from being so unaccustomed to dress; but old women often apply for something to keep their heads warm, and have thankfully accepted such hoods. Handkerchiefs never come amiss, and we were very glad of the large number you sent. The sewing materials are also most acceptable, and we quite appreciate the quality of those you sent. The slates we are very glad of; for, though we have a very large stock here, those you have sent are so convenient in size, and comparatively light carriage, that I set them aside at once for the interior Mission, and some have already gone on thither. The stationery of all kinds we are very thankful for, and find plenty of use for it, having a pretty good number of writers in the school. The looking-glasses, of which none were broken, mamma is going to give as a kind of wedding-present to newly-married persons, as an encouragement to civilization. She generally gives a bride a bag with a few sewing materials, with the same object, and for this purpose we shall use your work-bags. Two or three we have already given away to native teachers' wives. The shirts

are very acceptable, and we shall find good use for the women's and children's gowns, either here or in the interior. On this place and neighbouring stations the people imitate, as nearly as they can, European fashions, and as a whole make their dresses very well indeed, choosing generally prints of small and neat patterns, and they are not so fond of large, showy patterns as is generally thought, though they like bright colours; therefore, should we find the good and well-made gowns you have sent more suitable for the interior taste, you will not object to our thus using them. The only things injured were three or four transparent slates, and it was wonderful that that was all: with these our missionary children will be well pleased. The metal spoons and plates will come in usefully; and, as I think you would be interested to hear of the way in which the knives, dolls, and handkerchiefs were disposed of, I will give you some little account of our school feast.

JUVENILE ENTERTAINMENT.

"We generally give the children this treat during this month, and it is a joyful day to them, and perhaps not less to those who are the instruments of this enjoyment. We have a very nice school-house, but it is not large enough to accommodate children and visitors for the occasion, so we have them in the church, which is a fine building for this part of the world. The children are seated according to their sizes, a pathway separating between the boys and girls. The parents sit on either side, where they can have a good view of their children. The tables are placed in the middle, and the fare consists of buns, about the size of a penny loaf, made rather richer than ordinary bread by the addition of sugar, &c., and tea, sweetened till it is almost syrup. The milk is provided by the children themselves, each one bringing his or her contribution on the morning of the day; so that all these drops make a great quantity. Each child is provided, a day or two before, with a small piece of soap, in order that they may come clean and decent. They know by the sun the time to be ready, and one touch of the bell is sufficient to make them all appear in five minutes. All having entered, we begin with singing; and as it is only two or three weeks since this year's treat, I may as well tell you about it, as a specimen. We sang a new hymn which my father has lately translated from 'Jesus high in Glory,' out of Curwen's hymn-book. children sing sweetly, and they sang it beautifully. Mr. McKenzie, who had arrived unexpectedly from the interior a few days before, gave a short address and offered prayer, after which tea was poured out by Mrs. McKenzie, Miss Ashton, and myself, and carried round on trays by about six young men and women, who are connected with either day or Sunday school. The buns were soon distributed in the same way. When the children were all supplied the parents were waited upon, each receiving a large cup of tea and a bun. This business over, we proceeded to distribute the gifts, for most of which we have to thank you this year. A few received hymn-books-those who we knew to be without them. Handkerchiefs were given to all the rest of the girls, except the twenty youngest, who were highly delighted with the dolls. am sure those who dressed them so tastefully would have enjoyed the sight of those sparkling eyes! Nor were those who received handkerchiefs less delighted. The knives you sent were given to the elder boys, and the eyes of the little girls could not be brighter than those of the boys when they

received their portion. To the younger lads we gave inferior knives, and to the twenty youngest little harmonicas. We exclude no children from the feast, but any one whoever enters school at all may come; but those only receive presents who are regular attendants, and 'tis their parents only who are allowed to enter. This somewhat exciting work completed, dates were handed round—inferior things, of course, but very good in their eyes; and then oranges, which grow plentifully in the Mission gardens. All this over, after that we sang a short children's hymn to the tune of 'From Greenland's icy Mountains,' and they then dispersed, our school dismission song being kept up till all were out. In the evening they were assembled again, and a great many besides children, to see the magic lantern, an unfailing source of enjoyment and fun. Thus the day closed in, many little hearts doubtless longing for next year's treat. The children behaved very well, quite as well, I think, as any similar assemblage of English children would do, and the number present must have been from 150 to 200.

COURSE OF TRAINING IN THE SCHOOLS.

"The number of regular attendants at school is about 140, but not more than half of these come every day, even at this season of the year, which is the best for schools. The lads, with few exceptions, are herds, and thus generally come alternate days, and the home occupation of the girls causes many of them to come only every other day, and sometimes less. But I cannot complain of the numbers at present, as the average attendance must be 110 or 120. We have school during the whole forenoon, for three hours and a half. Reading and writing are, of course, the chief things taught. Arithmetic we also teach; but it is rather difficult, as they are so unaccustomed to large numbers of anything, that numeration is rather hard for them to comprehend. However, they are getting on. About fifteen are doing sums in the four simple rules, and they reckon pretty well; but it is difficult to make them apply anything. The same with reading. They will learn quickly to read well, but care nothing for what they read; thus we have great difficulty to get them to remember and think about what they have read. They sing well. A kind friend in England presented the station with a harmonium six years ago, and it has been the means of improving the singing very much. We have many children's hymns translated, for which we have to be thankful to papa and others; such as, 'There is a Happy Land,' 'Around the Throne,' 'Sweet Spices,' 'Jesus we love to meet,' 'I'm a Little Pilgrim,' and 'I want to be like Jesus.' Many of the people have beautiful voices; but their great fault is corrupting tunes, and it is very hard to prevent even the children. We hold sewing school twice a week of an afternoon, and there are many who can work very neatly. On Sundays there are usually three services, besides morning and afternoon school, and these are generally well attended, although the corn-watching in the summer and ostrich-hunting in winter thins the congregation much.

GENERAL ASPECT OF THE MISSION.

"I am sorry to say that the present state of the church and people here is discouraging, but we earnestly pray and hope that brighter days are in store. Much has been done, and great is the change since my parents came here first; but at present there is not the advance in intelligence and the pursuit of knowledge that is to be desired. At the same time there are some good signs, and the demand for books is ever on the increase. Besides the Bible and two hymn books, we have translations of 'Line upon Line,' 'Pilgrim's Progress,' 'Come to Jesus,' and an outline of geography. Papa is now completing the revision of the New Testament, and we hope ere very long to have the whole Bible bound in one volume. Hitherto, it has been in three. At present, papa is the sole missionary on this station. He is wonderful for his age, and, when well, is as brisk as a young man; but we are anxious for reinforcements, and hope some day to see the two new missionaries promised. Mamma cannot take a very active part in direct mission work now, but as long as she has any strength at all she will do what she can. She is hearty, considering her age and the life she has had in this climate, and her care for this and other Missions is increasing.

NOTICES OF THE MATEBELE AND BAMANGWATO MISSIONS.

"Our friends at the Matebele have but little encouragement as yet; for, though their hearts are cheered by seeing the people's confidence in them ever increasing, there are no signs of the work of the Spirit in these interesting people.

"The old despotic monarch discourages all real learning on the part of his people, although fond of the missionaries and giving them full permission to teach and preach. But we earnestly hope that ere long they may have their hearts cheered by seeing seed springing up where they now think it falls on stony ground. It is now nearly three years since the three missionaries, Messrs. Thomas, Sykes, and J. S. Moffat, first went there. The minds as well as bodies of the people are ruled as with a rod of iron by Moselekatse, and no one dare learn to read, because they know it to be displeasing to him, although he does not publicly prevent them. At the Bamangwato, a large tribe midway between here and the Matebele, there is a very promising field, and Messrs. McKenzie and Price labour there at present, and meet with very much encouragement. For though the old chief Sekhomi is quite a heathen, his two eldest sons are real Christians, and their influence in the tribe is very great. They find many and willing learners there, for all are free to learn. But it is still a stronghold of heathenism. The Bamangwato is one, and the Matebele two months' journey from Kuruman; and opportunities from the latter place are few and far between. It is now nearly seven months since their last date, while they had then been some months without letters, and, before they received any, it would be a year since they heard of a single friend. We anxiously look for news from them, but can expect none for several months. From and to the Bamangwato opportunities are more frequent.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

"But I must be drawing to a close, and hope I have not wearied you with the details as to the use we make of your kind gifts. We earnestly hope that our dear children may grow up a wiser and better generation than the present. But how truly powerless are we, even though doing all we can to plough the soil and sow the seed, if God withhold the blessing! They are persevering in learning anything which they can do mechanically, like reading, writing, and needlework; but I long to see more real earnest desire to grow in knowledge, and a deeper interest and concern for their eternal welfare. It is always cheering to us to bear in mind that we, and those among whom we labour, are remembered at the throne of grace by Christian friends in England, for we believe that their prayers will in due time be answered.

"Papa and mamma join in Christian regards to yourself and the ladies of your sewing-party, and send many thanks for your united kindness; and, hoping you will excuse the long delay in answering your kind note,

"Believe me,
"Yours truly,
(Signed) "JANE G. MOFFAT."

DECEASE OF MISSIONARIES.

In recent numbers of our periodical we have had occasion to deplore the successive inroads which death has made in the missionary circle; and on the present occasion it is our painful duty to record the removal of not fewer than four other valued agents of the Society, most of them in the prime of life, and labouring in widely distant portions of the field, viz., Mrs. Gregorowski, wife of Rev. R. T. Gregorowski, of Somerset, South Africa; Mrs. Macgowan, wife of Rev. John Macgowan, of Amoy, China; Rev. P. Goold Bird, of Samoa, Polynesia, and Rev. John Joll Dennis, of Nagercoil, South Travancore.

DEATH OF MRS. GREGOROWSKI.

With respect to the first name on this sorrowful roll of departed friends, Mrs. Gregorowski, who, with her husband, had been for years associated with the Missions in South Africa, after an illness of many months' duration was called to her rest on the 21st September ult., leaving her husband and a numerous family of children to regret their irreparable loss.

EXTRACT OF LETTER FROM REV. R. T. GREGOROWSKI, DATED, SOMERSET EAST, SOUTH AFRICA, NOV. 12th, 1864.

"My household has been deeply afflicted this year. Mrs. Gregorowski has left us. She had suffered from a chest complaint for more than a year, and died on the 21st of September. I am left behind with twelve children, of whom nine are yet at home."

DEATH OF MRS. MACGOWAN.

Mrs. Maccowan sailed with her husband for China in October 1859, and, arriving at Shanghae, their appointed station, they both devoted themselves with exemplary zeal to the work assigned to them; but Mrs. M.'s

health having at length exhibited evident symptoms of decline, her husband was induced, under medical advice, to remove her to Amoy, in the hope that the climate of that station might be better adapted for her constitution. This change took place in the summer of 1863, and at Amoy our friends continued to reside until the beginning of September last, Mr. Macgowan taking an active part in the duties of that Mission. But the benefit derived to Mrs. M.'s health from the more genial climate was only temporary, and, having undergone a serious relapse, her instant removal from China was deemed necessary; and accordingly, at the last-mentioned date, Mr. and Mrs. M. took ship for England, viâ New York. But the sufferer was unable to sustain the hardships of the voyage, and she died at sea on the 29th October ult., about three weeks after leaving Anjer. Our excellent young friend departed out of life full of that peace which passeth understanding.

LETTER FROM REV. J. MACGOWAN, DATED BERGEN POINT, NEW YORK, JANUARY 2ND, 1865.

"My DEAR DR. TIDMAN,—I am sorry to say that I have very sad news to give you. My dear wife died at sea on the 29th of October, about three weeks after leaving Anjer. We had rather a tedious passage down the China Sea, which tried her very much, and after getting into the Indian Ocean she began to sink very rapidly. Her last end was a very peaceful and a happy one. She rejoiced in the prospect of being with Christ. Not a single doubt or fear disturbed the serenity of her last moments on earth, but her faith appeared to enlarge as her life ebbed away. Her death made a very great impression on all on board, and two or three date the commencement of their spiritual life from that event. I have been greatly comforted by the thought that what was so grievous to me has been the blessed means of adding even one soul to the number of God's people.

"I shall not remain more than a week or so in America. Christian friends here have received me very kindly, and have done everything to make me

comfortable.

"I remain, my dear Dr. Tidman,
"Yours very truly,
"(Signed) "JOHN MACGOWAN."

DEATH OF REV. P. GOOLD BIRD.

So recently as October last we announced the death of Mrs. Bird, of Samoa, the particulars of which were furnished by her surviving husband, and it is now our sad duty to mention that Mr. B. himself has since been numbered with the dead. It is little more than four years since our beloved friends left their native country; and from the time of his arrival at Samoa until his last fatal illness, Mr. B. had devoted timself with the most signal zeal and energy to the promotion of the cause of Christ. From the time of his lamented wife's death, in April last, little or no hope was entertained of Mr. Bird's recovery, and on the 22nd of the following August he sweetly fell asleep in Jesus.

EXTRACT OF LETTER FROM REV. H. NISBET, DATED MALUA, UPOLU, SAMOA, AUGUST 24TH, 1864.

"Previous communications will in some measure have prepared you to hear that our dear young brother, Bird, has fallen asleep in Jesus. I am sorry that the present opportunity is so hurried that it precludes me from doing much more than simply intimate to you the fact that he was taken to his rest on Monday afternoon, the 22nd August, and we laid his body in the Institution burying-ground yesterday, in the sure and certain hope of a glorious resurrection. Through circumstances in the arrangements of Providence, it so happened that we had present at the interment the greater number of the members of the Mission, and also our friend Consul Williams.

"You are aware that our brother had been seriously ill ever since the end of November last. In the beginning of April he returned from Niue, after having there buried Mrs. Bird. When he arrived, it was but too evident that he had only returned to die. During all the intervening months he has been with us at Malua, gradually declining and wasting away, and sometimes suffering severely. It has been the duty, and at the same time the privilege of Mrs. Nisbet and myself to nurse him, and watch over his declining and dying hours. It was gratifying and satisfactory to witness his patient waiting all the appointed days till his change should come, leaving it quietly and resignedly in the hands of his Father in heaven. During some seasons of his weakness and sufferings he felt that the enemy of souls was trying hard to buffet him, and sift him as wheat, if he might succeed in removing his hold from the Rock and Refuge. But grace gained the victory, and he could say to Mrs. Nisbet, on the very day of his death, while speaking of the love of Jesus, 'I am resting in His love.' A few hours afterwards death set his seal upon him, and he literally breathed out his spirit, so very like 'falling asleep in Jesus.' He had turned and settled himself as if to take a little rest, when he quietly breathed his last, so gently came his dismissal from weakness and suffering. And we said, 'For him to die was gain.' Thus early has the Lord seen fit to take to himself His young servant, for whom we had hoped many years of labour in the Mission field were appointed, and from whose energy and zeal we might have expected much efficient service. But the Lord is teaching us, that 'His ways are not our ways, nor His thoughts our thoughts.' What can we say but that, although 'clouds and darkness are round about Him,' yet all His ways are right?"

DEATH OF REV. JOHN JOLL DENNIS.

Mr. Dennis, of the Travancore Mission, has been cut down in the prime of life, and in the midst of a career of valuable labour. It is nearly ten years since our esteemed friend first proceeded to India. Accompanied by Mrs. D., he recently paid a short visit to England, but, on account of the pressing exigencies of the Mission, he returned to the field of labour alone, and, while prosecuting his various labours with his customary zeal and assiduity, he was suddenly called to his rest and reward on the 15th November last, leaving his sorrowing family in this country to lament their afflictive bereavement.

LETTER FROM REV. JAMES DUTHIE, DATED NAGERCOIL, NOVEMBER 19th, 1864.

"MY DEAR DR. TIDMAN-You would learn from the note which I forwarded by last mail, and which will have been received by you ere this reaches, that my colleague Mr. Dennis had not been feeling well; but, nothing very serious appearing to us at the time to be the matter. I expressed the hope that he would speedily recover his wonted robust health and strength, and be enabled to resume his accustomed duties in the Mission. Little did I anticipate the event which since then, alas! has transpired, and which has cast a gloom over our spirits here, deprived the Society of a devoted and valued missionary, and myself of a steady and attached friend ever since the date of my connection with the Society, upwards of eleven years ago. It is now my painful duty to communicate to you the mournful intelligence of the death of our lamented brother, which took place here at two o'clock on the morning of the 15th instant. None of us were prepared for the sad event, nor was our dear brother himself aware that his end was so near. The Master came at an hour when we looked not for Him. Truly, the ways of the Lord are not our ways! The Mission had been in a sufficiently weakened state before this; now another labourer has been called hence, the burden and heat of the day has to be borne by a feeble few; who, then, of all God's servants who read this brief notice will consecrate himself to the glorious work of God in this land, and volunteer to stand in the breach which He has made?

"A few particulars regarding our departed brother's illness and death I shall very briefly supply. About three months ago Mr. Dennis first complained of slight derangement of the bowels; but no one thought much of it, and he himself quite believed it would soon disappear with a little care as to diet. week or two passed without much change either for the better or worse, and, as Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson of Santhapooram were spending their school vacation at our Sanatarium on the Asamboo, he joined them there, in the hope that a short change from the low country to the cooler climate of the hills would do good. The weather, however, at that time was not very favourable; and, fearing that a longer stay there would do further injury, he returned to Nagercoil, weaker than when he left, and evidently suffering so much that medical advice and attendance became necessary. The symptoms gave unmistakable evidence that dysentery had commenced, and Dr. Lowe lost no time in prescribing the treatment which the case required. The attack was not at any stage a very severe one, and after the proper medical remedies had been administered, it gradually yielded, and ultimately quite passed off; and although it left him weak and unable for work, we had every reason to hope that he would soon recover. He had, in fact, got so much better that he was able to attend the Sangam (half-yearly Missionary Meeting) of his district, which took place a month ago, and in the afternoon of that day he left us for Muttam, on the sea-side, hoping that the sea air and bathing there would quite restore him to health and strength. For a time this change had a very beneficial effect, and he wrote in excellent spirits about himself; but the improvement was not destined to last long. Diarrhea came on, and after a fortnight's absence he returned to us, better, certainly, than when he went away, but not sufficiently recovered to be able for work. Active measures were taken by Dr. Lowe to check the diarrhea, but without any very satis-

factory results, till after the application of leeches, when it quite ceased. Therewere unmistakable indications, however, of sub-acute inflammation of the bowels in the latter stages of the illness, and our medical brother was most unremitting in his endeavours to remove this. Everything that medical skill could devise was resorted to for the purpose of reducing the inflammation; and though ultimately we were not without our fears as to the issue, there was nothing, as it appeared to us, to indicate any immediate danger or to excite alarm. evening previous to his death Dr. Lowe and myself were both in attendance, and when we left him, at a late hour, he was quite quiet and feeling inclination to sleep. This was about eleven o'clock; the doctor saw him again shortly after, when he said he had enjoyed a little very refreshing sleep, and felt much better. Little did we think that the end was so very near at hand. At 2 A.M. we were both suddenly summoned to the room where he lay, and, to our great grief, it was quite evident that life was ebbing fast. We found him unable to return any answer to our inquiries—so suddenly had the change come -and all we could do was to turn aside and commend the departing spirit of our friend and fellow-labourer into the hands of Jesus. Five minutes afterwards it was all over: that chamber had become the chamber of death; without the slightest movement, and apparently without suffering the least degree of pain, he calmly and peacefully fell asleep. Previous to this illness, he was one of the strongest in our Mission circle, and enjoyed the best of health. all human appearance he was better able to withstand the influence of this trying climate than most of us. He has been cut off in the midst of his years, and usefulness, and strength, and great is the loss which the Mission generally, and the people of this station in particular, have thus sustained.

"It is scarcely necessary for me to allude to the very affecting circumstance of the absence in England of her upon whom the blow will fall heaviest, and whose is the nearest concern in the mournful scenes that have just terminated here. It is a sore affliction that has befallen his beloved wife and children, and their grief, when the intelligence reaches them, will be intensified by the thought that their beloved one but left them to die in a foreign land, and that the melancholy satisfaction of ministering to him in his last moments has been denied them. It will be some consolation to them to know that all the kind offices that friends could perform have been discharged; it will be greater to reflect that he has found his last resting-place on the spot where he spent the nine years of his missionary life, and among the people for whom he laboured and prayed; greater still, I doubt not, to feel that it was the will of our Heavenly Father that thus it should be, and that their loss is his eternal gain. I am sure I utter not my own sentiments only, but those of every one in our Mission circle who knows Mrs. Dennis, when I very earnestly commend her and her fatherless children to the kind regard of the Directors. I pray that the Lord may put it into the heart of many to befriend and help her in the solitude and sorrow of this great bereavement.

"The funeral was attended by great numbers of sorrowing Christians, and by not a few heathens also, in token of respect for Mr. Dennis; the solemn services were conducted by Mr. Wilkinson and myself, and to-morrow special sermons will (D. V.) be preached in our spacious chapel here by Mr. Baylis, Dr. Lowe, and myself. Our brother rests from his labours, and all that was mortal of him reposes securely in our quiet grave-yard till the resurrection

morn. May we who are graciously spared a little longer labour with all our might while it is yet day, knowing that the night cometh when none of us can work.

"REV. A. TIDMAN, D.D."

"With kind regards I remain,
"Yours very faithfully,
(Signed) "J. DUTHIE.

MISSIONARY CONTRIBUTIONS. From 19th December, 1864, to 17th January, 1865.

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Old Gravel Pit Auxiliary.	Young Women's	Mrs. Mulins 0 7 8	Miss M. Douglas
T. Chatteris, Esq. 1 1 0	Bible Class, for	Mrs Mouse 0 8 6	Sarah Ann Walker, U 3 8
	Schools 1 7 6	Mrs. Kent 0 1 3	Sarah Shenton 0 1 2
Park Chapel, Camden Town.	55l, 2s, 1d, ———		Marina Brewell U 1 5
J.J. Knight, Esq., Treasurer.		Miss Laurie 0 8 6	Elizabeth Wain 0 1 8 Louisa Holmes 0 1 9
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Mr. Baker 0 2 6 Miss Baxter 0 5 0	Juvenile Auxiliary.	Miss Varney 0 8 2 Miss Harriss 0 13 8	Walter Garside 0 4 0 John Horobin 0 4 9
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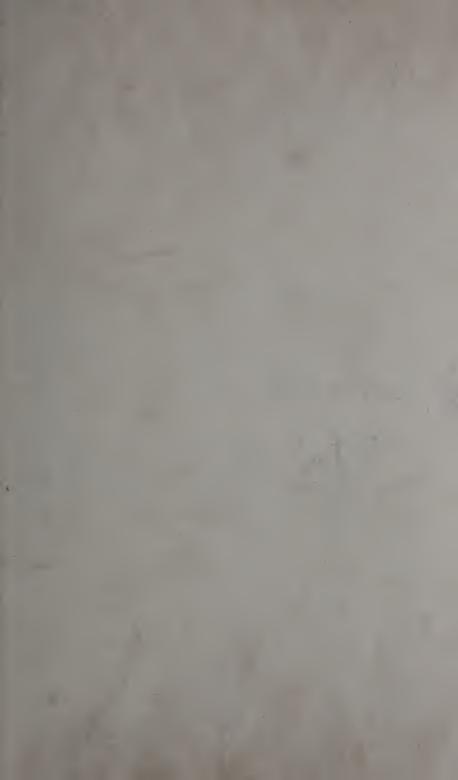
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Rev. H. Cross. Sabbath Collections 3 10 (Madras	Blackheath.	Rev. R. Repry
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DED # 135	HERTFORDSHIRE.	Church.	Miss Aspland 0 10 0
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Mr Buswell 0 3 0	A Friend, for do 0 10 0	Mr. Fernandez (A.) 0 5 0 Mr. Fibbins 0 5 0 Mr. Fladgate 0 2 6	Rev. J. W. Kiddle 0 10 0
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